

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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Ready Municipally for 1956

The municipal elections are over for another year and now it behooves us as good citizens of a community to work together in making 1956 a better year for Acton. It is gratifying to note that the ratepayers turned out in such numbers to register their choice. It was one of the biggest municipal votes recorded for some years and is a good omen for the town. There were several factors in this awakened interest which may have been contributory but now that you have voted make it a habit and get your certificate every election.

Council also received guidance in the two questions presented for approval or rejection. It is very evident that the Acton Band has a warm place in the minds and pocketbook of citizens. It has down over the years served well. Its financing and expansion is now provided for in comparison with the growth of Acton. May it long maintain its fine record and deserve the continued support of the town.

The civic centre, while so soundly defeated, does not indicate the lack of need of such a building in Acton. The approach to the question was too hurried and unprepared. The vote would indicate that firstly ratepayers are conscious of the large amounts involved in municipal indebtedness, and secondly that a lot more information and consideration of the entire project must be given to the whole question before favor will be given. Perhaps the general plan and location and a partial procedure will be the first requisite. Defeat does not indicate lack of entire need but it does indicate caution.

Our congratulations to not only the successful candidates but also to the interest in citizenship of those who offered to serve. Now the decisions have been made let's get on with 1956 and a progressive and constructive program that will make Acton a better place in which to live and work.

Protecting the Public

Establishment of standard labelling practices for textiles sold in Canada has been announced by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

After January 1st, according to the new regulations, any label attached to any textile material or article of clothing must give a full and accurate description of the fibre content, and must not describe as "hand" knitted or woven any material that is even partly knitted or woven by machine.

This is a progressive move which reflects credit on Canadian textile producers, garment manufacturers, retailers and consumers who co-operated with the federal government to develop a practical, and informative, labelling system.

Greatest gainer from the new regulations will be the Canadian consumer who will be able to shop more quickly and economically because she will know exactly what she is buying and what to expect from it.

Be Careful

The Ontario Highways Department which was rocked last year by the laxity in highway construction will now set out to get additional revenue from owners of motor vehicles this year with increased fees that are estimated to bring into the revenues 10 million dollars.

Under the new scale of registration fees for passenger cars, the present \$2.00 license will cost \$3.00; the \$5.00 license will go up to \$7.00; the \$10.00 will be \$14.00; the \$15.00 license fee will cost \$21.00. Licenses for trucks and buses will be increased on a comparable scale up to and including commercial vehicles of 14 tons; beyond that weight, the rate of increase will rise more sharply. For example, the rate on a 19-ton truck will rise from \$313.50 to \$502.00.

The Minister of Highways points out the department is engaged upon and is committed to a greatly expanded program of highway construction and maintenance and assistance for municipal thoroughfares. There is only one thing to do to stay on the road—pay it—but we presume it's opportune to implore the Department to be careful. It's our money that's being spent. And, of course, be thankful the added contribution won't be payable until after Christmas.

Forced To Join

We regretted that last week we were forced to announce an increase in subscription rates for the Free Press. The amount involved is small but that announcement marked a personal defeat for us in maintaining costs that have been going on for several years as a sort of challenge.

One of the increases in the cost of paper a few years ago was countered by buying in bigger shipments. It curtailed our space and took more capital but it held our price. The government helped in the next increase by taking off the sales tax on newsprint but the paper makers got the 10 per cent. saved by the government. We bought our news ink in quantities four times as large to get the price maintained. By doing the mechanical operation and buying of supplies for two papers instead of one we were able to effect other economies that held the price.

Then came the recent announcement of another rise in cost of paper. There were some options. We could erect another building and buy paper in carload lots and save the increase. But the building would cost several thousands. We could put in another press and buy our newsprint in rolls at a lower price. We could invest in stocks in the newsprint companies and share in the return of greater profits, which are incidentally, much better than ours.

There was only one catch to all these alternatives. The capital was not available for any of them and unlike municipalities we couldn't float a debenture issue to take care of the investments we couldn't pay for at the moment.

We have to acknowledge defeat in the battle to hold the subscription price and pass on to the public who are in the majority enjoying the merry-go-round of get more and pay more. We realize now we should have gone with the majority several years ago and taken the easy way of passing the costs on but we enjoyed trying the other way and bow in defeat. We could have mentioned other cost increases, but most of you readers have personal experience in more taxes, more for water, light, telephone, postage, cartage, motor license fees, and the multitude of things that have had increases since your home town paper had its last 50 cent raise or less than a cent a week. As we read this over we feel maybe we should have made it a dollar instead of 50 cents a year.

A Big Majority Concur

After attending and reading about the nomination meeting last week we were more heartily in accord with the findings of 97 per cent. of the forums in Ontario "That local government is effective". We shall even go along with the forum that commented "local government is democracy at work in the community where the local citizen can most easily participate and make his wishes known. It gives him a chance to help decide on matters which are of direct concern to him."

Where else can a voter get up and ask and get answers as direct as at a nomination meeting? What other seat of government is as close as a few blocks and so easy to attend as a municipal council meeting? In what other governing body does the average citizen find the door open at every meeting and the opportunity for securing information with as little formality?

We might ask too (although we think it is an imposition) what other elected member of a public body will discuss during his business or leisure hours the things that concern him and may require attention? Then we might ask too what other public representative gets as little financial remuneration and as much personal abuse as the man or woman who serves in local government?

There's only one answer and we are glad to note that 97 per cent. of the forums discussing the question found that answer and expressed it following their discussion.

Any Time or Place

As the Christmas season approaches organizations which have the welfare of Canadians at heart and are civic minded urge moderation in drinking of intoxicants, especially by those in control of motor vehicles. The Federated Women's Institute of Canada has issued a release giving five rules which if observed will help to keep Canadians sober during the weeks before, and at the time we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Just why there is any place for undue drunkenness at the Christmastide is difficult to understand in a country which professes to be Christian. But then, of course, there are folks who use any pretext for taking a drink. We've known folks who drink for joy and get drunk to drown their sorrows. In between times they just drink for sociability.

Some of these days soon we are going to see a relaxation of the present restrictions prohibiting the advertising of liquor in Ontario. We are likely to see more liquor sponsored advertising on the TV. and radio, in the magazines and newspapers. It will be paid for by the brewers and distillers in the hope of selling more of their product. They don't care whether you drink it at Christmas or to drown your sorrow in a bereavement. Any time or place as long as you lap more of it up.



(Photo from Canadian Government Travel Bureau) OPEN SLOPE SKIING Banff National Park, Alberta, where powder snow lies soft and deep in winter.

The Bible Today

REV. G. P. PARSON, District Secretary, Upper Canada Bible Society. The Bible speaks in the idiom of the people it addresses anywhere in the world. An example of this is shown in a paraphrase of the 23rd Psalm for the Navajo Indians. The great Father above a Shepherd Chief is, the same as I am he is, and with him I want not. He throws out to me a rope, and the name of the rope is love, and he draws me, and he draws me, and he draws me to where the grass is green and the water is not dangerous; and I eat and lie down satisfied. Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down, but he lifts it up again and draws me into a good road. His Name is Wonderful. Someime, it may be very soon, it may be longer, it may be a long, long time, he will draw me into a place between the mountains. It is dark there, but I'll not draw back, I'll be afraid not, for it is in there,

Stewart-Theaker Eramosa Wedding

Following a wedding trip to the United States, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart are making their home in Osprey. They were married in the United Stone Church, Eramosa. The bride is Jean Elizabeth Theaker, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Theaker of Rockwood and the groom is John Edwin Stewart, the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Stewart of Guelph. Rev. J. W. Diltz officiated at the marriage. Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a floor length gown of white net over satin. A matching net veil was held in place by a coronet of sequins. She wore a simple strand of pearls and carried a bouquet of dark red roses. Elsie Joyce Theaker, sister of the bride, was the sole bridesmaid in an ankle length turquoise nylon net gown. The turquoise satin underskirt had a bolero to match. Her feather headpiece was turquoise. She carried a bouquet of bright yellow roses. Best man was Vernon Stewart, Guelph. Aubrey Richardson, Milton and Don McCalpine, Eden Mills, were ushers. Liston Rowse accompanied Mrs. Harry Lorsee, soloist. In the church basement, the reception was attended by 69 guests. Mother of the bride was gowned in a blue crape dress with a corsage of white carnations. The groom's mother chose a navy two piece dress with a corsage of small flowers. The bride wore a black fleeced wool glove suit with turquoise hat and gloves for her travelling costume. Her shoes and purse were black. Guests attended from Milton, Campbellville, Eden Mills, Rockwood, Fergus, Mount Forest, Ancaster and Manitoba. ATOMIC ENGINEERS VANCOUVER (CP)—A national plan to produce new engineers to develop atomic power for peace was called for by Prof. Frank Forward of the University of British Columbia in an interview here. "These must come from the universities and there are not enough students now to meet the demand," he said.

Churches

- UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Minister. Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue Phone 60. Mr. George Elliott, Organist and Choir Leader. 76 Bower Ave., Acton, phone 6. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1955 9:55 a.m.—Church School, Junior Church, white gifts for Earls-court Children Home, U.C. 11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship. 7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer. Monday, December 12—Y.P.U. in S.S. Wednesday, December 14—Church School entertainment at 4:15; Friendly Circle at 8:15. THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont. Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th., Rector. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1955 (ADVENT III) 9:00 a.m.—Holy Communion. 10:00 a.m.—Church School. 11:00 a.m.—Beginners' Class. 11:00 a.m.—Service will be conducted by members of the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen. Sermon by Mr. Cyril Taylor, Chairman of Sidesmen. Special music by Men's Quartette. 4:30 p.m.—Holy Baptism of Infants. No Evening Service on the second Sunday of the month. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG M.A., R.D., Minister. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1955 9:45 a.m.—Church School. 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. 7:00 p.m.—Rev. S. C. Coles, B.A. A Warm Welcome Awaits You —They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Ray H. Costerus, Pastor Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave Phone 206w. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1955 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School. 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. 7:00 p.m.—Evening Service Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Mid-week Service. ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY Meeting in L.O.L. Hall, Crewson's Corners. Pastor: Rev. K. J. Reid, 91 Cook St. Telephone 649w. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1955 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School. 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. 7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic Service. Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Cottage prayer meeting and Bible study.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1905

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 7, 1905. Nominations two weeks from tomorrow. The old answer will be given by the intelligent electors of the town, "We want no whiskey bars in Acton." The illness of Mrs. John Moore terminated in her death at noon on Tuesday, Jennie Green was the daughter of the late Dr. Green, one of Canada's self-sacrificing physicians who gave up their own lives in an effort to bring relief to their patients during the terrible cholera scourge which swept Canada nearly half a century ago. She was born at Ottawa, in proximity to where the Parliament Buildings now stand, on December 2, 1846—the sixtieth birthday anniversary of her burial.

BACK IN 1935

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 12, 1935. Winning letters in the annual Free Press Santa Claus letter contest are published this week. The big doll goes to Annetta Evans and that focusing flashlight was won by Gordon McCutcheon. When the fine bank barn on the farm of William McCullough, on the fifth line about two miles east of Acton, was destroyed by fire early Friday evening, the sky was illuminated for miles around. Many flocked to the fire but were too late to be of any assistance. Mr. McCullough and his sons were able to get most of the stock out safely. Melvin McCullough suffered rather severe burns on his hands in his work of salvaging contents of the barn.

Winter sports are here in earnest again. Skating, coasting and cutter riding are all in vogue.

A rear end collision occurred at the G.T.R. station early on Friday morning between two freight trains. A van was badly wrecked but there was little other damage.

Mrs. E. Ryder, who has conducted the bakery and confectionery business on Mill St. opposite Brown's drug store, has disposed of the business to Miss L. B. Ryder, who took possession on Monday. Mrs. Ryder served the public with much satisfaction.

Balfinado has seldom had a larger or more representative gathering than that which congregated in the hall on Monday evening of last week for the purpose of making a presentation and saying good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Thompson and Miss Maggie.

Mrs. A. E. Nicklin has been elected president of the Methodist Ladies' Aid.

There never was and never will be a universal panacea in one remedy for all ills which flesh is heir to. However, Quinine Wine relieves those who suffer a chronic state of morbid despondency and lack of interest in life is a disease and by tranquilizing the nerves disposes to sound and refreshing sleep.

The merry music of the sleigh bells is here again.

On Tuesday evening the members of St. Alban's Young People's were entertained by celebrated radio artists. The members of the troupe were as follows: the Hill-billy Boys, Mickey Holmes, Ed. Footitt, Herb Wood, Bob Footitt, Tommy Robson and George Simpson; the Death Valley Sisters, B. Taylor, Ada Elliott and Mrs. E. Anderson; Olive Oil, soloist, Olive Rogers; Shirley Temple, Shirley Kentner; second Rubino, Norman Braida; pianist, L. Perry; announcer, Rigby Cross.

Acton Legion held its regular meeting last night. After a short business period, the comrades repaired to the Banquet Room where well-loaded decorated tables were found, the main item being a large venison roast provided by president, Zone Commander J. M. McDonald.

The 5th annual ball and supper this was the special 12-page Christmas edition of the Free Press. Among those with large advertisements were W. M. Cooper, Pallant's, Wood's groceries, Woodhall and Mussell Flowers, Carrall's, Benton's, B. D. Rechin, Harold Wiles, A. T. Brown, W. Nesbitt, Symon's, J. K. Gardiner, Johnstone and Rumley, Elliott Bros., Hinton's, Jos. N. Reid, Wm. Evans, F. L. Wright, Barr's, W. D. Talbot.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Professional Directory and Travellers' Guide listing various services and businesses in Acton and surrounding areas.

Table listing Canadian National Railways schedules, including Eastbound and Westbound services with times and destinations.